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## Give a toy, get a smile

By Joseph Roman

Imagine sitting at home and having everything you want, while some people don't even have an apartment or a place to call home this holiday season. Imagine sitting at the curb, your closest thing to a home, with nothing! What if someone blessed you with a toy, something you could play with?

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. However, the toys **MUST** be brand new and for ages newborn to 14. In our school, the Toys for Tots drive was run by Ms. Tosto and Ms. Miller, and involved all grades.

Those who donated brought gifts to Ms. Tosto in room 337 and placed a donation in the large, cardboard box in the front of her room.

Another fund-raiser that was done for Toys for Tots this month was the stocking sale. Eighth graders came around with



sheets with stockings on them, asking if anyone would like to make a donation of just **\$1**. Students colored the sheets and they were then hung up all over the school walls (great decorations!).

Another way of donating (outside of I.S. 27) is by calling the Staten Island Marine Corps League office at (718) 447-2306. They will take this information down and try and help families in need. With one toy or donation, you can make a large impact on families' lives!



Let's hear it for Ms. Tosto and Ms. Miller for organizing the Toys for Tots Drive. Don't forget to thank Mr. Schwartz too for reminding us to bring in donations on the announcements each day!

## The Right Gift for Everyone This Holiday Season

### By Brigid Fegeley



The holidays are here! Children are really excited, telling everyone what they want and baking cookies. The joy of waking up on Kwanza, Chanukah or Christmas morning with presents of all shapes and sizes. After opening them and playing with them for a while, it's time to see family and friends!

But, what if they get you something that you don't want to get? To avoid putting on that fake smile and sarcastically saying, "Thanks, I love it!" here's a list of cooler presents that everyone

will be sure to love this year:

- X-Box 360 console with Kinect
- PlayStation 3
- Modern Warfare 3 for any gaming system (with exceptions of PlayStation Portable, and PlayStation 2)
- Abercrombie and Fitch, Aeropostale, American Eagle and Hollister gift cards
- Jewelry
- Other gift cards (you can never go wrong with American Express and Visa Gift Cards)
- iPod Touch 4<sup>th</sup> Generation
- A laptop
- iPhone 4S (TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS SPECIFICALLY! DON'T BUY FOR AN 8-YEAR-OLD!!)
- Harry Potter DVD and Blu-Ray set

12-Month X-Box LIVE **GOLD** membership

Okay, feel better about the holidays with the relatives? You should. With this list, you're guaranteed no trips to the mall to return a hideous



## Great music means a ton of fun at Fall Dance

By Mianna- Millenia Martinez

Talk about awesome fun! The PTA held the Fall Dance on November 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. It was held in the school cafeteria. There were refreshments, such as water, chips and candy. Everyone was hanging out with their own groups of friends. Mostly hip-hop and R&B was played by our fabulous DJ, Mr. Ortiz, an Engineering Academy social studies teacher. It was off the chain (fantastic). The DJ played many different artists, such as Nicki Minaj, Rihanna, Maroon 5, Bruno Mars, Beyoncé, and much, much more! The chaperones were distributing beads, the teachers, like Ms. Brusco, were taking pictures and even a seventh grader (Jonathan Eldridge, also known as Jon- Jon) who looked like Justin Beiber, went on a few crates and sang to the tune of "Baby."

The teen-agers who were unlucky to not get tickets were trying to get in, but had no luck! To end the night smoothly, the DJ played the song, "Someone Like You" by Adele. It was an amazing ending to a great night.

## Black Friday

By Justin Rivera

It was straight to the lines on Thanksgiving night as thousands and thousands of people lined up for the early Black Friday deals, starting at as early as 12 AM. I was a witness, as my family and I were on the line for Best Buy's sales from 12 to 3:00AM. The lines were really long, and seemed to have no end until at least 5 AM.



There was no violence locally, like what happened to a security guard in Wal-Mart. It seemed that no one wanted to cause chaos, so they just stayed in their spots, waiting endlessly for those doors to open and for those great deals. Black Friday usually ends in chaos, but this Black Friday ended peacefully. The customers got along and the police did a good job. A lot of people were disappointed because many of the great buys were sold out. My family didn't get the X-Box 360 that we had planned, but we didn't walk out empty handed. There were many other good items such as headsets and bundles to spend your money well on!

## The Most Wonderful Time of Year

By Kadeja Jenkins

It's the most beautiful time of the year.

Time to gather ...

Time to have fun....

We learn new traditions

And do it all again next year.

New faces and even new PLACES!

Grandma and grandpa filled with such cheer,

Passing down a big ol', wet kiss and big ol' tight hugs

With all your family in the comfort of your home,

Mama cooks a meal with the recipes of our southern folks of South Carolina.

Gathering around the open fire as quiet as mice

We listen to the stories of when our family was teenagers, what their lives were like and how much it's changed.

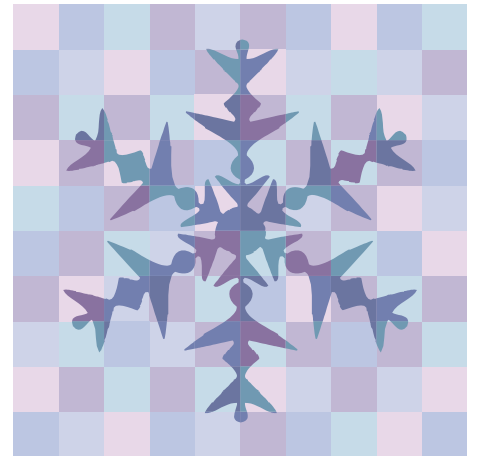
I ask Grandpa, "How was it when you were a kid?"

Then we listen closely and sprinkle a few tears on the lavender-colored facial tissues

Bellies full and minds thinking ....

We head off to bed and they head home

How are the "holidays" at your house?



## Rocking With the Rockettes

By Andrew Ballou

I recently attended the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, which is a great show featuring the Rockettes and Santa Claus. I was taken around the building on a VIP tour because a very good friend of mine who attends Sacred Heart in West Brighton won an essay contest. The grand prize was 40 tickets, along with four VIP tickets (sixth- row seats)!

We were escorted around the building and were told the history of The Radio City Music Hall, including how it was built and who built it. If you look at the stage, there is a sunset on the top of the arch. The builder was looking for a creative design and he was inspired when he saw a sunset.

One thing about the stage that I learned which I thought was very interesting was that it elevates in three places. There is also a circular platform that spins like a military aircraft carrier.

The show was amazing from the giant 3D screen to the Rockettes' outrageously high leg kicks. My favorite part of the performance was The Parade of the Wooden Soldier (the domino effect act). I met two of the Rockettes before we watched the show and they gave us previews of the costumes they were going to wear. It was a great performance. If you want to boost your holiday spirit, then go and see this show. I give it 5 stars and a thumbs up.



## The Thanksgiving Day Parade

By William Winkelman

The Thanksgiving Day Parade was a **HUGE** success! All of the floats and balloons were perfect. Nothing went wrong. Thousands of people were there, including me, my sister and mother. This was my third time going! We went at 6:00 a.m. It was so early I did not want to wake up. We took the ferry to Manhattan and then took a train. When we got there, I ran to get a good spot behind the barricades. I sat for what felt like days, but it was only a matter of hours before the fun began.

My favorite balloons were Sonic the Hedgehog, Pikachu, Julius the Sock Monkey and Ronald McDonald. I read in the paper that Snoopy, from the famous cartoon, *Peanuts*, was the best. I liked the balloon too, but I never really took a liking to him on T.V. I had so much fun! I wish I could go back in time and do it all over again. Hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and have a great holiday season!





## Thumbs up for the Winter Concert

By Tiyana Castro and Andrea Benitez

We went to the Winter Concert on December 15th. It was held in the I.S.27 auditorium at 7 p.m. It started with the senior band, playing the 'Star Spangled Banner,' and was followed by holiday hits like 'Baby, It's Cold Outside,' 'Winter Wonderland,' 'Christmastime is Here,' and 'Feliz Navidad.' The Prall Chorus sang 'Jingle Bell Rock,' 'Carol of the Bells,' 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' and more.

Everyone involved in this concert, especially Mr. Giaimo, Ms. Panagakos and Ms. Suter, made it the greatest concert ever! Our favorite part of the night was when the musical theatre group started to dance to "All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey.

The next day, there was an encore performance and students from the YMCA, who participate in the Reading Rainbow program, attended. They even were surprised with a special visit from Santa!!!

## Anning S. Prall I.S. 27

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[www.is27-anningsprall.org](http://www.is27-anningsprall.org)

## SPORTS CORNER

### Smokin' Joe Frazier

By Jose Arroyo



The life of a legendary boxer has come to an end. Smokin' Joe Frazier died on November 7<sup>th</sup> due to liver cancer. He was 67 years old. Smokin' Joe, who beat legends such as Doug Jones, Muhammad Ali and Buster Mathis, was diagnosed with liver cancer just 5 short weeks before his death. His death shocked the boxing world and fans across the world.

The one-time heavyweight champion was born on January 12, 1944 in Beaufort, North Carolina. In 1964, Joe Frazier represented the United States in the heavyweight category. He wouldn't have been in that spot if the first representative, Buster Mathis, didn't get injured. He fought Muhammad Ali 3 times and only won once. One of the biggest fights in history was Joe Frazier fighting Muhammad Ali. Ali won after the fight ended in the 15<sup>th</sup> round. This match was called the Thrilla in Manila."

Frazier was diagnosed with cancer in late September 2011. Within a few weeks, the cancer had metastasized. By November 2011, he was under hospital care, where he died on November 7, 2011.

Even though I'm young, I know a lot about Smokin' Joe. I've read about him, watched *ESPN* classics, and played *Fight Night*, and boy, he *is* a legend in my terms.

## Upcoming Important Events

- ◆ December 23rd, 2011- Progress Reports Distributed
- ◆ December 23, 2011- January 3rd, 2011: Winter Break
- ◆ January 6th and 10th- Wagner Performing Arts Auditions